

REMARKS

Claims 3, 12, 14, 15, and 17-30 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant places the application in condition for allowance. In particular, by this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 13 and 16, rewrites claims 14 and 17 in their independent form, and changes the dependency of claims 18.

Office Action Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the objection to the specification and for indicating that claims 3, 12, and 19-30 are allowed. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 14, 15, and 17 contain allowable subject matter. Finally, the Examiner objected to claim 3 and rejected claims 13, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 3 because of a minor typographical error. Applicant fixed the typographical error, and respectfully submits that the claim as now presented no longer include the potential informality mentioned by the Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection to the claim.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 13 and 16. In addition, Applicant changes the dependency of claim 18. Claim 18 now depends from claim 17, which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 18 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 17. In view of the foregoing, this rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 12, and 19-30 are allowed.

Claims 14, 15, and 17 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claim. By this amendment, claims 14 and 17 are rewritten in their independent form including all of the features of their respective base claims. Therefore, the Examiner should now allow claims 14 and 17, and their dependent claims 15 and 18, respectively.

Applicant, however, does not acquiesce to any inferences or presumptions drawn from the Examiner's statement regarding the reasons for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

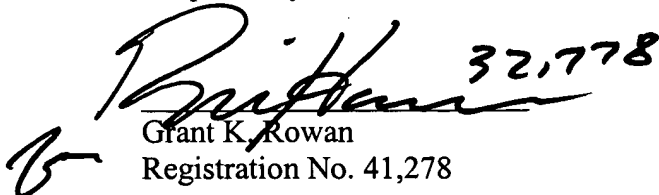
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 18, 2004

 32,778
Grant K. Rowan
Registration No. 41,278